HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE A SHINOBI!
I KNOW TAKECHIYO WELL! HE'S THE SUCCESSOR TO THE MATSUDAIRA NAME!
RIDICULOUS! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
NGH
IS HE REALLY MATSUDAIRA TAKECHIYO?
LORD NOBUNAGA,
MAYBE IEYASU WAS A SHINOBI FROM THE BEGINNING?
I DON'T KNOW...
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, LORD JUBEI?
THAT IS UNMISTAKABLY HIS FACE!
TAKECHIYO WAS A HOSTAGE WITH THE ODA WHEN HE WAS A BOY.
HOW COULD HE BE WITH ME?
BUT RIGHT NOW HE SHOULD BE IN SUNPU AS A HOSTAGE TO THE IMAGAWA

IT IS ALL SO WE MAY RULE.
LORD NOBU-NAGA.
WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING, TAKECHIYO!?
WHY!?
WHO'S "WE?" THE MATSU-DAIRA!?
HEHE
ALL IS FOR TIME TO DECIDE
THAT... WAS NO ILLUSION
I WAS CERTAIN
WHEN I SAW THAT CASTLE TODAY,

ARE YOU THE "TOKUGAWA SECRET !?"
I KNEW THE AGE OF THE TOKUGAWA WOULD COME!
THE SHINOBI WOULD RULE THE LAND!
YAGYU JUBEI
WHAT !?
IF MY THEORY IS CORRECT, YOU'LL DISAPPEAR!
YOU CAN NEVER UNCOVER OUR SECRET.
BUT LET'S PUT IT TO THE TEST IN A FEW DAYS
IT'S ONLY A THEORY.

IF YOU YET DRAW BREATH, YAGYU JUBEI,
THEN COME TO IGA!

THAT IS WHERE ALL SECRETS LIE!!!!

LORD JUBEI...
DID HE.
IS HE REALLY IEYASU?
THEN SOMETHING MUST BE HAPPENING IN IGA ALREADY.
IF HE COULD UNDERSTAND MUCH AFTER SEEING SO LITTLE,
DID HE KNOW THE FUTURE?
NO IDEA
YES

WHAT COULD THAT MEAN?
IF THAT IEYASU'S THE REAL THING
THAT WE'RE GOING TO DISAPPEAR!
BUT HE SAID SOMETHING THAT WORRIED ME
MY SPIES IN IMAGAWA REPORT
THAT MATSUDAIRA MOTOYASU WAS IN SUNPU CASTLE UNTIL A FEW DAYS AGO
CAN I SEE HIM?
HUH?
TAKECHIYO COULDN'T BE A SHINOBI!
A CONDI-TION!?
BUT I HAVE A CONDITION
IF WE USE MY SPIES, IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE

AND HELP ME TO UNITE THE LAND!
YOU, JUBEI, BECOME MY VASSAL!
HOW ?
I CAN TELL YOU HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN
NO CAN DO. BUT...
DO THAT, AND YOUR ROAD TO THE SHOGUNATE IS CLEAR!
ATTACK THE IMAGAWA AT OKEHAZAMA!

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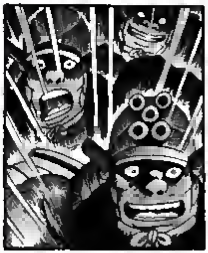
MAY 19, EIROKU 3 (1560) OKEHA-ZAMA, DENGA-KUGA-KUBO



WAH!
IT'S THE ODA ARMY!
AHHHH!
CHARGE STRAIGHT THROUGH AND TAKE IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO'S HEAD!
OHH!

MY CONQUEST HAS NO FUTURE!
GO! IF WE DON'T TAKE YOSHIMOTO'S HEAD IN THIS BATTLE,
THEIR ARMY OF 25,000 ARE INSECTS BEFORE OUR 2,000 MEN!
LOOK, THE IMAGAWA ARE IN A ROUT! IT'S JUST AS LORD NOBUNAGA SAID!
MY LORD!
GWAA AAAH!

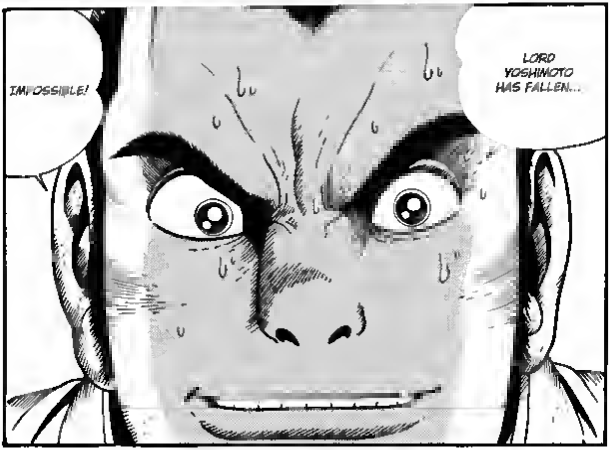
I'VE GOT IT! I'VE GOT IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO'S HEAD!
SPLENDID, LORD NOBUNAGA!
YOU WERE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT; THIS SURPRISE ATTACK AT OKEHAZAMA WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SMASH THE IMAGAWA!
THAT'S LORD NOBUNAGA FOR YOU!!
LETTING TWO OF OUR FORTRESSES FALL,
ONLY TO LAUNCH A SNEAK ATTACK AT OKEHAZAMA!
NO ONE ELSE COULD HAVE CONCEIVED OF SUCH A STRATEGY!
YAGYU JUBEI!
IT ALL WENT EXACTLY AS YOU CLAIMED!

IS IT RIGHT FOR US TO INTERVENE IN HISTORY TO THIS EXTENT, LORD JUBEI?
HE'S DONE IT! NOW LORD NOBUNAGA'LL ROLL OVER THE WHOLE COUNTRY!
WE CANNOT ALLOW THE SHINOBI EDO PERIOD TO EXIST
WE MUST ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF OUR OWN ERA.
IT IS TO PREVENT THAT THAT WE MUST UNCOVER THE SECRET OF THE TOKUGAWA!
MANY PEOPLE WILL BE FORCED TO ENDURE THE TORMENTS OF HELL!
IF WE ALLOW THE SHINOBI EDO PERIOD TO EXIST, WE WILL DISAPPEAR!
!?

NO PROBLEM. MOTOYASU'S ARMY'S RIDDLED WITH OUR SPIES. THEY'LL MAKE A PATH FOR YOU.
CAN WE REALLY MEET MOTOYASU?
BUT LORD NOBUNAGA ORDERED ME TO SHOW YA THE WAY.
I AIN'T GOT A CLUE WHAT YET SAYIN'.
BUT LORD NOBUNAGA'S PROMISED TO MAKE ME A SAMURAI BEFORE MUCH LONGER.
I'VE EVEN GOT A NAME PICKED OUT FOR THE OCCASION!
ME? I'M NO SHINOBI! THESE DAYS THEY CALL ME THE HACHISUKA MONKEY.
ARE YOU A SHINOBI?
KINOSHITA TOKICHIRO! NICE NAME, DON'TCHA THINK?
THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S TOKI-CHIRO!
TOKICHI.

THAT MODESTY MIGHT SEND YOU SOME FINE DREAMS
'BEIN' A SAMURAI'S ENOUGH FOR ME!
HAHAHAHA! I'M FROM PEASANT STOCK! I AIN'T AIMIN' SO HIGH!
FOR NOW, THOUGH, I'M THE MONKEY
YOU'RE GOING TO RULE THIS LAND YOURSELF ONE DAY—
TOKICHIRO...
DREAMING AND BRAGGING'RE FREE, SO WHY NOT DREAM BIG?
LET IT THEN!
MOTOYASU'S PROTECTING ODAKA CASTLE UP AHEAD ON IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO'S ORDERS.
THEY'LL HAVE HEARD YOSHIMOTO IS DEAD BY NOW, SO IT'S SURE TO BE IN UPROAR
THE FUTURE TOYOTOMI HIDEYOSHI IS LEADING MY HORSE

ODAKA CASTLE


IMPOSSIBLE!
LORD YOSHIMOTO HAS FALLEN...

LET US FLEE TO SUNPU!!
LORD MOTOYASU, THIS CASTLE IS IN ODA TERRITORY! WE HAVE NOT A MOMENT TO SPARE!
WOULD YOU MERELY SERVE AS IMAGAWA VANGUARD AGAIN!?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
LORD MOTOYASU, YOUR DECISION!
AS MATSUDAIRA MEN, WE OUGHT TO RETURN TO OKAZAKI CASTLE AND OBSERVE THE ODA!
RIDICULOUS! YOU THINK WE CAN BETRAY THE IMAGWA AND LIVE!?
EVEN WITH LORD YOSHIMOTO DEAD, THEIR POWER IS IMMENSE!

TO THINK HOW TO ENSURE THE MATSUDAIRA'S SURVIVAL...
I WISH TO THINK ON IT ALONE FOR A WHILE
ALL OF YOU, GIVE ME A BIT MORE TIME.
チリ
チリ

KYOAMI?
AYE
IT SEEMS THE TIMES HAVE BEGUN TO MOVE

I'VE SURVIVED THIS LONG BY FOLLOWING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS
KYOAMI, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I NEVER IMAGINED THAT LORD YOSHIMOTO WOULD FALL TO LORD NOBUNAGA.
IT SHALL TAKE MORE THAN THIS TO LAY YOU LOW!
DO NOT FRET.
A STRONGER FOE?
YOU MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, A STRONGER FOE IS APPROACHING.
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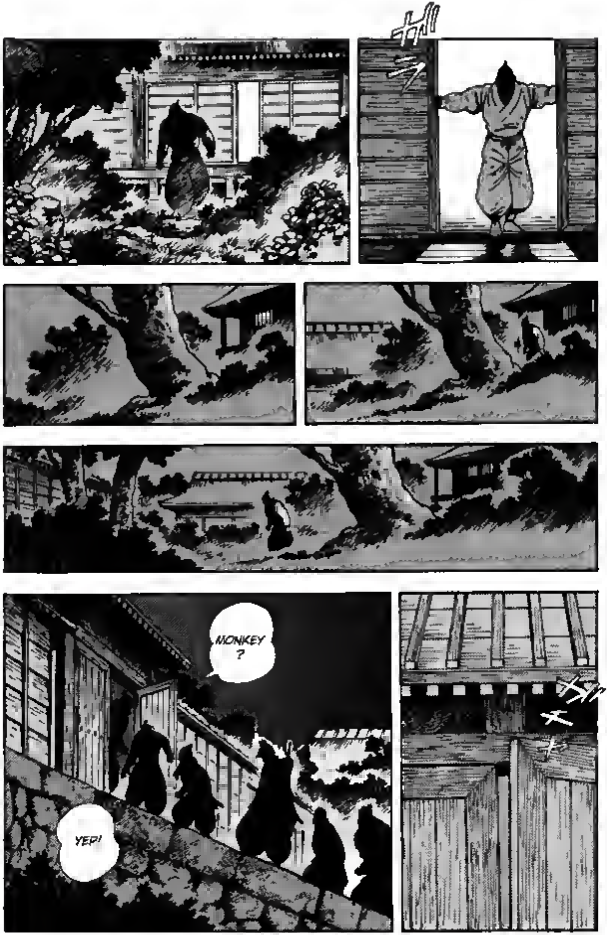
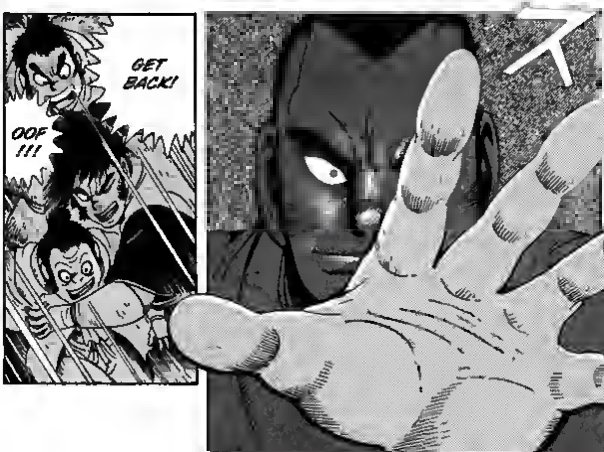

MONKEY ?
YEP!

NOT TO WORRY.
WHEN WE DROP IN UNANNOUNCED?
WON'T HE THROW US OUT
LORD MOTOYASU IS IN THE MANOR HOUSE
HE'S NOT A PHYSICALLY STRONG MAN.
LORD MOTOYASU IS AN INTELLIGENT STRATEGIST
HE MUST KNOW THAT SIDING WITH ODA NOBUNAGA IS OUR ONLY HOPE OF SURVIVAL.
WITH YOSHIMOTO DEAD,
WE'LL MEET WITH ANY MESSENGER FROM ODA

LORD MOTO-YASU!!

PLEASE JUST LISTEN!
I CAN EXPLAIN!


GET BACK!
OOF !!!

KA
AH!

THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO, JUBEI!
SO, IT'S YOU, KAGEMARO!
OHH!

WAAAAH!

WHAT
!?
SO THIS IS YOUR NINPO, KAGEMIKO!

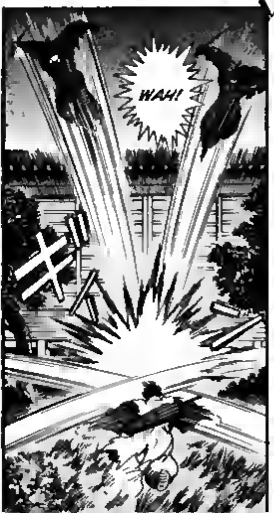
DO YOU FEAR IT!?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW OUR SECRET, JUJIBE!?
DO YOU FEAR MY DOMINION!?
LORD JUBEI!
UMANAMI! PROTECT TOKI-CHIRO!

MWOH!
MWAH !!!
NOH!
I CAN TELL RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!
DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY SHADOWS YOU USE, KAGEMARO.
THERE ARE MORE MOTOYA-SUIS EVERY MINUTE!
WHO ARE THEY !?
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO FLUSTER LORD JUBEI!
HE'S USING KAGE TO DIVIDE HIMSELF!

THEY CAN'T EXIST WITHOUT THE ORIGINAL!
SHADOWS ARE PITIFUL THINGS
GRR!
THE ORIGINAL HAS THE POWER TO CONTROL ITS SHADOWS.
YOU!
SO SHADOWS PATHETICALLY STRIVE TO PROTECT THE ORIGINAL. THE REAL KAGEMARO IS...
KAGEMARO

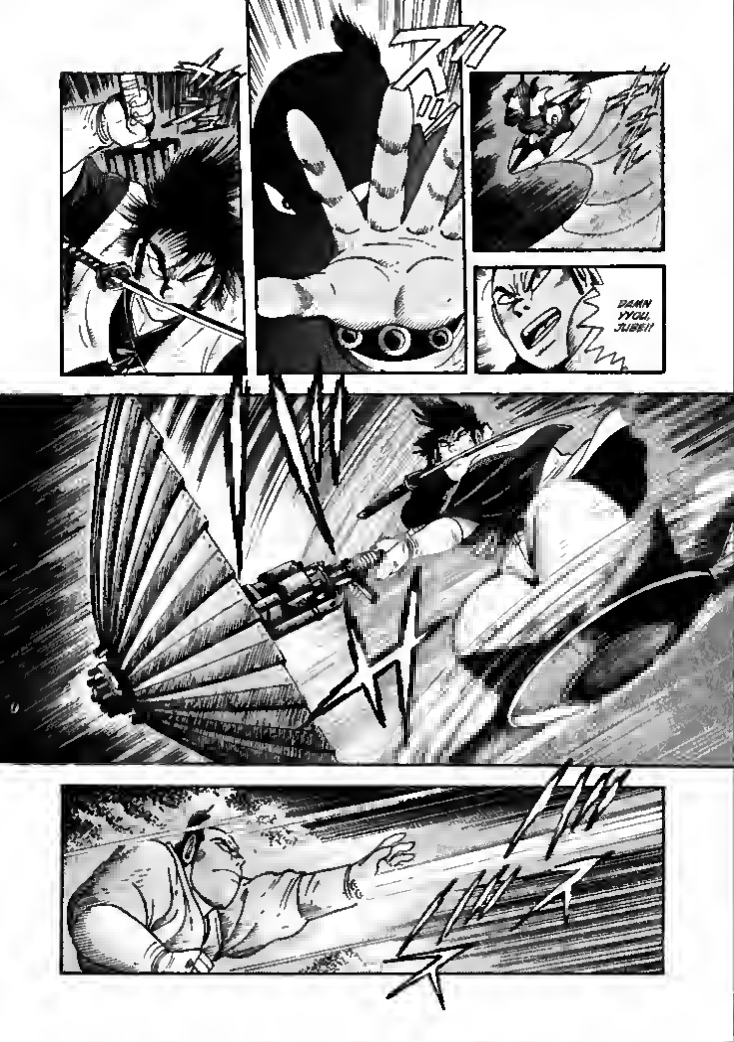
AH!

HIS SWORDS-MANSHIP IS INHU-MAN!


WAH!

UMA-NAMI!
YOU'LL NOT LEAVE THIS PLACE ALIVE, JUBE!!
!?

LORD KAGE-MARO!
WHAT ARE THESE GUYS!?


DAMN YYOU, JUBEI!

MIYAMOTO MUSASHI'S GRUDGE WILL SCATTER YOU SHINOBI LIKE LEAVES!
A MEMENTO OF MUSASHI!

HAA AAA AAAH!
KUOOOOH!

LORD JUBEI!
AHH!
IT CAME FROM LORD MOTOYASU'S SLEEPING QUARTERS!
IS NOBUNAGA ATTACKING!?
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
SOME-ONE'S THERE!
THEY CATCH US, WE'RE DEAD!
NOT GOOD!
WHERE? WE'RE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THEM!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
ULP!
OVER THERE!

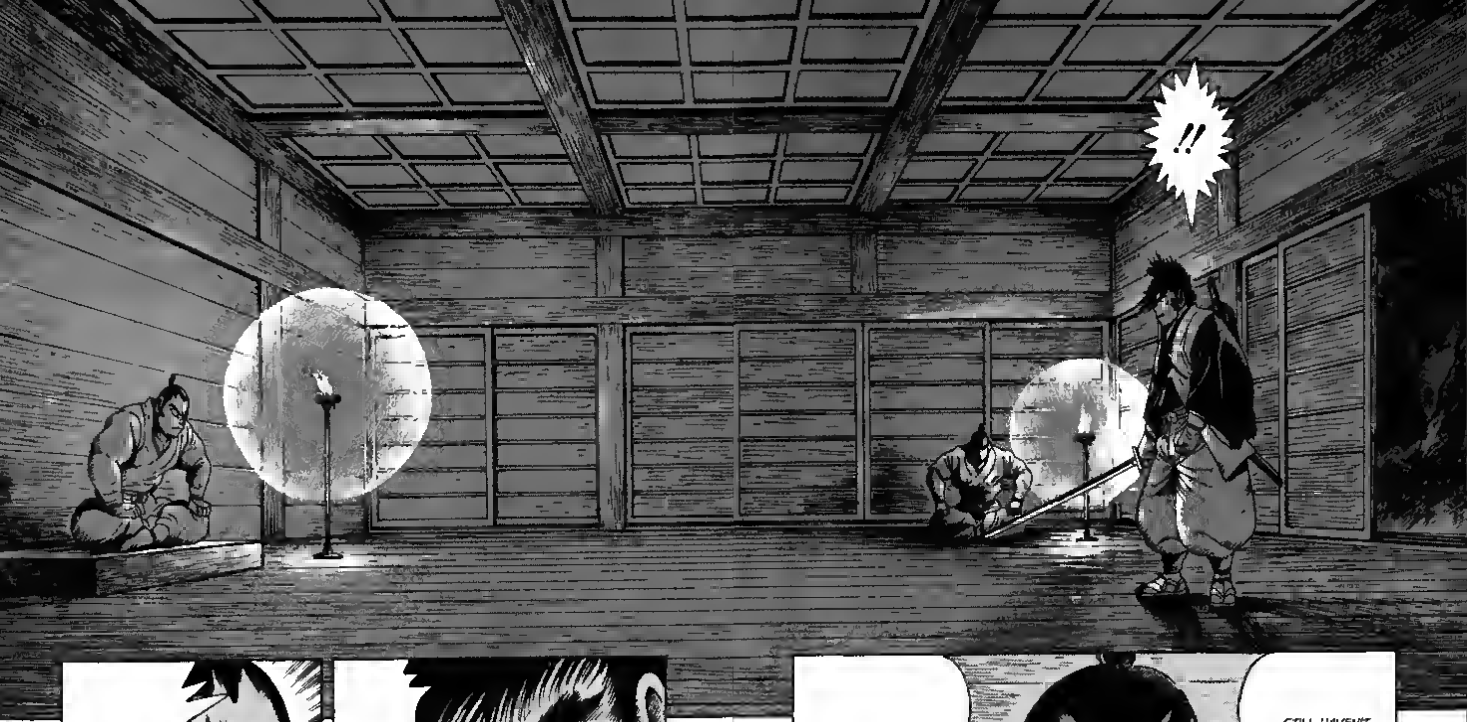
GIVE YOURSELVES UP, KNAVES!
WAHHH!
AHH!
RESIST, AND WE WON'T HESITATE TO CUT YOU DOWN!
UO OH!!
I AM LORD NOBUNAGA'S NUMBER ONE RETAINER!
KINOSHITA TOKICHIRO!
BE SILENT !!!!

YOU LOT! FOLLOW ME!
WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT, NAMING ODA RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ENEMY STRONGHOLD!?
THIS'S THE ONLY WAY WE STAY ALIVE!
NGH!
HUH!?
WHA AAT!?
WHA-
ODA'S RETAINER?
THE IMAGAWA ARMY IS IN SHAMBLES! LORD NOBUNAGA REIGNS SUPREME THIS DAY!
IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO, THE MAN YOU MATSUDAIRA SERVE, LOST HIS HEAD TO THE ODA ARMY AT OKEHAZAMA BEFORE DAWN THIS MORNING!
NO!
WHA...!?
AT THIS VERY MOMENT, LORD NOBUNAGA IS HEADED HERE WITH A GIGANTIC ARMY!

RESIST, AND YOU ALL DIE!
FOLLOW THE ODA ARMY, AND YOUR LIVES, AT LEAST, WILL BE SPARED!
I'M HERE AS A MESSENGER TO SAVE THE MATSUDAIRA!
GRR !!
HUH?
IF YOU'RE REALLY A MESSENGER, YOU MUST HAVE A LETTER FROM LORD NOBUNAGA!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
I CAN OUT-TALK ANYONE!
PRETTY SLICK!
YOU CAN'T CALL YOURSELF A MESSENGER WITHOUT A LETTER BEARING LORD NOBUNAGA'S SEAL!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
WH-
VERY WELL!
COME CLOSER AND I'LL HAND IT TO YOU!
HUH?
I'VE GOT A LETTER!

SHOW ME!
PLEASE MAKE DO WITH A LOINCLOTH!
KILL THEM!
ATEEE!

IN THAT CASE, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL IF I'M A SHADOW OR NOT
YOU SAID THE ORIGINAL HAS AUTHORITY HIS SHADOWS LACK.
MORE PHONIES, KAGEMARO?



VOLUME IV: FIN, TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 5 OF YAGYUU JUUBEI DIES BEYOND THE BLOODWINDS

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